

Appl. No. 10/792,149
Docket No. 9173L
Amdt. dated April 28, 2006
Reply to Office Action mailed on July 28, 2006
Customer No. 27752

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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A liquid infusion pod comprising a liquid permeable fluid distribution member situated in a top plane and a liquid permeable first filter member wherein the first filter member is [sealed] engaged to the fluid distribution member forming a first interior chamber that comprises a liquid dispersible material, the fluid distribution member comprising at least one injection nozzle protruding downward from the top plane into the interior chamber, the injection nozzle has at least one infusion port that directs fluid into the first interior chamber in a direction that is not normal to the top plane.
2. (original) The pod of claim 1 wherein the liquid dispersible material is substantially dry and comprises at least one of a fat containing material, a protein containing material and mixtures thereof.
3. (original) The pod of claim 1 wherein the surface area of the infusion port is small enough that water will flow through the infusion port with a linear velocity of at least about 25 cm/second under a pressure of about 1.5 atmospheres or more.
4. (original) The pod of claim 1 further comprising a second filter member that is sealed to the fluid distribution member on the side opposite the first filter member defining a second interior chamber which comprises a liquid extractable material.
5. (original) The pod of claim 4 wherein the liquid extractable material comprises less than about 2%, by weight, of added materials selected from the group consisting of oils, fats, proteins and mixtures of these.
6. (original) The pod of claim 5 wherein the injection nozzle has a liquid inlet opening that has a surface area that is between about 2% to about 50% of the total surface area of liquid distribution member.

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7. (original) The pod of claim 6 wherein the liquid inlet opening is covered with a third filter member.
8. (original) The pod of claim 1 wherein the fluid distribution member and the injection nozzle are substantially liquid impermeable except for the infusion port.
9. (original) The pod of claim 8 wherein "substantially liquid impermeable" means that at least about 90%, preferably at least about 95%, more preferably at least about 98%, by weight, of the liquid fed onto the liquid distribution member flows through the infusion ports into the first interior chamber.
10. (original) The pod of claim 1 wherein the injection nozzle is substantially rigid.
11. (original) The pod of claim 1 further comprising an extraction pod situated above the liquid infusion pod with respect to the flow of the liquid through the pods, the extraction pod comprising a second filter member defining a second interior chamber comprising an extractable material.
12. (original) The pod of claim 11 wherein the fluid distribution member comprises supporting protrusions between the extraction pod and the infusion pod.
13. (original) The pod of claim 1 wherein the fluid distribution member comprises supporting protrusions that extend into the first interior chamber and support the first filter member.
14. (original) The pod of claim 1 wherein the fluid distribution member slopes downward away from the top plane towards the injection nozzle.
15. (original) The pod of claim 14 further comprising an extraction pod situated above the liquid infusion pod with respect to the flow of the liquid through the pods, the extraction pod comprising a second filter member defining a second interior chamber comprising an extractable material, the extraction pod being situated within the sloping portion of the fluid distribution member such that the extraction pod is adjacent and below the top plane.
16. (original) The pod of claim 1 wherein the liquid dispersible material is selected from the group consisting of solids, powders, granules, and mixtures thereof, preferably the liquid dispersible material is selected from the group consisting of particles whose sizes are from about 100 μ to 1 cm in diameter.

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17. (original) The pod of claim 1 wherein the liquid dispersible material is selected from the group consisting of dissolvable materials, liquid extractable materials, non-dissolvable materials and mixtures thereof.
18. (original) The pod of claim 1 wherein the injection nozzle penetrates the infusion pod by at least about 20% of the distance measured from the top plane to the bottom most portion of the first filter member.
19. (original) The pod of claim 9 wherein the at least one infusion port is located within the range of from about 20% to about 100% of the distance of penetration of the injection nozzle.
20. (original) The pod of claim 1 wherein the at least one infusion port that is not normal to the top plane directs water from the injection nozzle at an angle of from about 20° to about 160° from the point of the infusion port on a line normal to the top plane.
21. (currently amended) A liquid infusion pod comprising a liquid permeable fluid distribution member situated in a top plane and a liquid permeable first filter member wherein the first filter member is [sealed] engaged to the fluid distribution member forming a first interior chamber that comprises a liquid dispersible material, the fluid distribution member comprising at least one injection nozzle having a first position that is substantially flush with the top plane and the injection nozzle having a second position wherein it is protruding downward from the top plane into the first interior chamber, the injection nozzle having at least one infusion port that is open when in the second position and wherein the infusion port directs fluid into the first interior chamber in a direction that is not normal to the top plane.
22. (currently amended) A liquid infusion pod comprising a liquid permeable fluid distribution member situated in a top plane and a liquid permeable first filter member that is releaseably attached to the liquid distribution member wherein the first filter member and the fluid distribution member form a first interior chamber and within the first interior chamber is a self contained, pre-dosed filter pod having a second interior chamber that comprises a liquid dispersible material, the fluid distribution member comprising at least one injection nozzle protruding downward from the top plane into the first interior chamber without piercing the

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pre-dosed filter pod, the injection nozzle having at least one infusion port that directs fluid into the second interior chamber in a direction that is not normal to the top plane.

23. (currently amended) A liquid infusion pod comprising a liquid permeable fluid distribution member situated in a top plane and a liquid permeable first filter member wherein the filter member is [sealed] engaged to the fluid distribution member forming a first interior chamber that comprises a liquid dispersible material, the fluid distribution member comprising at least one injection nozzle protruding downward from the top plane into the first interior chamber, the injection nozzle has at least one infusion port and at least one deflection plate wherein liquid flows through the infusion port and is directed onto the deflection plate such that the fluid deflects off of the deflection plate into the first interior chamber in a direction that is not normal to the top plane.